

*Statement of Jimmy Carter, 1980*

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to make the transition to other employ-  
ment. As a result, the reorganization of  
Rock Island lines, so vital to Midwest  
shippers, should be facilitated.

Finally, the act authorizes expansion  
and revision of the existing financing pro-  
gram which provides funds to help our  
Nation's railroads. It is my expectation  
that these Federal funds be directed to  
the maximum extent possible at rail re-  
structuring projects, and the Secretary of  
Transportation has assured me that this  
will give the highest priority to using the  
funds provided in that manner.

All Americans will benefit from the  
Staggers Rail Act of 1980.

NOTE: As enacted, S. 1946 is Public Law 96-  
448, approved October 14.

**Hostage Relief Act of 1980***Statement on Signing H.R. 7085 Into Law  
October 14, 1980*

The tragic circumstances which make  
the Hostage Relief Act of 1980 so neces-  
sary have occurred all too often in recent  
years. In particular, the holding of 52  
Americans in Tehran has made this legis-  
lation urgent.

I am pleased that speedy and thought-  
ful action on the part of both Houses of  
Congress has brought to my desk a bill  
which will go a long way toward alleviating  
some of the burdens faced by the  
families of those held hostage and will en-  
sure that adequate medical treatment will  
be provided to hostages and to their loved  
ones when they return.

All those held captive in Iran and  
others in similar situations since Novem-  
ber 4, 1979, irrespective of whether they  
are in the Armed Forces or are civilian

*Administration of Jimmy Carter, 1980*

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Government employees, will receive the  
education and health benefits provided  
for in this bill. Additionally, all of the  
hostages will be excused from Federal  
taxes for the period of time spent in cap-  
tivity.

With the enactment of this legislation,  
we take a small but extremely important  
step toward providing a measure of com-  
pensation for the severe hardships hos-  
tages and their families endure. I am ex-  
tremely pleased to sign this bill into law.

NOTE: As enacted, H.R. 7085 is Public Law  
96-449, approved October 14.

**Intelligence Authorization Act  
for Fiscal Year 1981***Statement on Signing S. 2597 Into Law  
October 14, 1980*

It is with pleasure that I sign into law  
the Intelligence Authorization Act for  
Fiscal Year 1981. This legislation authorizes  
the appropriation of funds for our  
Intelligence Community. It is essential  
that I and those who aid me in the for-  
mulation of our Nation's foreign policy  
make our decisions on the basis of accu-  
rate information about the capabilities  
and intentions of other countries and of  
forces that shape world events. I am  
pleased that the Congress has followed my  
recommendation and authorized suffi-  
cient funds to ensure that we continue  
to have the best intelligence service possi-  
ble.

I am also pleased to note that this leg-  
islation contains authority for the pay-  
ment of a death gratuity to the surviving  
dependents of intelligence personnel  
killed overseas as a result of hostile or  
terrorist activities or in connection with

an intelligence activity having a sub-  
stantial element of risk. I pray that, in the  
future, situations will not arise that  
necessitate use of this provision. It is  
important, however, that our intellegi-  
encers overseas, who daily sacrifice  
comforts of home to serve their country  
under sometimes difficult and dan-  
gerous circumstances, know that we as a  
nation stand behind them and will pro-  
tect the welfare of their families should  
they be captured.

In addition to providing funds for  
a strong intelligence service, S. 2597  
contains legislation that modifies  
the Hughes-Ryan amendment  
and establishes, for the first time in  
a comprehensive system for congres-  
sional oversight of intelligence activities.  
This legislation, which will help to ensure  
that U.S. intelligence activities are con-  
ducted effectively and in a manner that  
protects individual rights and liberties, is an  
important part of the comprehensive  
intelligence charter on which this adminis-  
tration and the Congress have worked  
over 2 years. Unfortunately, the  
other legislative matters prever-  
red by the Senate did not receive the  
attention of the Senate Select Committee on  
Intelligence, and the Senate Select Com-  
mittee on Intelligence did not receive the  
attention of the House Select Committee on  
Intelligence. The oversight legislation  
that was passed does not seek to alter the  
authorities and responsibilities of the  
executive and legislative branches, but  
rather codifies the current practice  
of the relationship that has developed  
between this administration and the Senate  
and House intelligence committees  
over the past 3 years. This intent is evi-  
denced by the language of the bill itself and  
by the legislative history that stands behind  
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It is noteworthy that in cap-  
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